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and growth of the Naples Zoological Station that he founded. Whether from these materials it will be possible to reconstruct a complete history of the station, can not as yet be definitely said; but at all events the many letters that Dohrn wrote to his scientific friends could not fail to fill up many gaps and throw more light on the whole subject. All those, accordingly, who have in their possession any letters from Dohrn, and are willing to give a helping hand in this undertaking, would be doing a great service if they would lend these letters, or copies of them, for the purposes of the work. All communications should be addressed to Frau Marie Dohrn, Rione Amedeo, 92, Naples.

DR. CHARLES B. DUDLEY, chief chemist of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, past president of the American Chemical Society, died at his home in Altoona, Pa., on December 21 at the age of sixty-eight years.

DR. LUDWIG MOND, the distinguished industrial chemist and investigator, a founder of the alkali firm of Brunner, Mond and Co., died in London on December 11, at the age of seventy years.

THE U. S. Civil Service Commission will hold an examination on January 12 for the appointment in the Bureau of Standards of an engineer-physicist at \$3,000 per year and associate engineer-physicist at \$2,000 per year. Applicants should be able to carry on independent research in the field of engineering physics, and should have training and experience in the inspection and testing of engineering and structural materials, the operation of testing machines and the interpretation of the results of investigations. Titles and references to the original source of publication of all papers published should be given.

ACCORDING to the *London Times*, it is planned to establish in Germany a Chemische Reichsanstalt to undertake for chemical industry similar functions to those which the Imperial Physical Institute performs for engineering. The undertaking is being subsidized by the state, and it is expected that the annual maintenance will cost about £10,000.

A CONFERENCE on the eradication of the hookworm disease will be held in Atlanta, on January 18 and 19. Delegates will be appointed to the conference from Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

THE second general meeting of the International Institute of Agriculture was held at Rome beginning on December 12.

THE annual exhibition of physical apparatus organized by the London Physical Society was held on December 14 at the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington.

THE annual meeting of the Association of American Universities will be held at the University of Wisconsin on January 4-5. Among the subjects to be discussed at this meeting are "The Problem of the Assistant Professor," to be discussed by a representative of Leland Stanford University; "University Extension," to be presented by Director L. E. Reber, of the extension division of the University of Wisconsin; and "The Position and Importance of the Arts Course as Distinct from the Professional Course," to be read by President Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

AT a meeting of the senate of the University of London on December 16, a letter was read from Mr. Otto Beit, announcing a large gift in the interest of medical research. Mr. Beit's brother, the late Mr. Alfred Beit, left £50,000 to found an "Institute of Medical Sciences." As the formation of this institute has for various reasons become impossible, Mr. Beit has decided to increase the sum left by his brother to £215,000. This fund, which is to be named "The Beit Memorial Fellowships for Medical Research," is to be devoted to the furthering of medical research work in all its branches. With this object a sum of £250 a year for three years is to be granted "to any man or woman of European descent, graduate of any approved university within the British Empire, who is elected to a Fellowship." The first election of fellows will take place on or before March 1, 1910.

THE Experiment Station *Record* states that the legislature has increased the rate of taxation for the support of the University of California from two to three cents for each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation. This is expected to provide an income for the current year of about \$600,000. Appropriations were also made aggregating \$130,000 for additional buildings and equipment at the University Farm at Davis, and \$88,500 for its maintenance during the ensuing biennium; \$20,000 for farmers' institutes; \$15,000 for viticultural investigations; \$12,000 for cereal investigations, and about \$40,000 for the equipment and maintenance of the Southern California Pathological Laboratory.

MRS. PHOEBE HEARST has undertaken to build an anthropological museum for the University of California to cost about \$500,000.

TULANE UNIVERSITY will receive \$100,000 by will of Isidore Newman, of New Orleans.

THE old block of six tenements at the north end of the Sheffield Scientific School grounds, held for many years at a prohibitory price, has been bought for less than \$35,000. It will now be torn down and the chemical laboratory extended over part of the site.

IN order to secure closer cooperation between the regents and the faculties of the University of Minnesota, the board of regents has passed the following resolution:

*Resolved*, that the several deans of the university be requested to report to the board of regents at their next meeting some plan by which matters concerning the general interests of the university may be taken up and considered by some representative body of those directing the work of the university and the board of regents in closer relation than heretofore.

THE establishment of an agricultural college at Mayaguez, Porto Rico, has been authorized by the territorial legislature. I. W. Hart, of the School of Agriculture, São Paulo, Brazil, has been elected president.

MR. F. A. WOODS, chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been elected dean of the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### "OFFICIAL" LIST OF ZOOLOGICAL NAMES—AN OPEN LETTER TO PROFESSIONAL ZOOLOGISTS

A NUMBER of zoologists have expressed the opinion that a list of the most common zoological names should be prepared and that the International Congress of Zoology should accept this list in the future as free from any operation of the law of priority. Other zoologists view this proposition as theoretically and practically open to very serious objections. In the hope of meeting the wishes of the representatives of both sides of this question I take the liberty of proposing an alternative plan, namely, that a list be made of the most commonly used zoological names, that these names be subjected to rigid study under the present international code, and that the international congress adopt this list as "official," with the provision that no change in any of the names in the list be accepted unless the reason for such change is first submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for careful study and unless said commission decides that the change is justified and necessary.

If the zoologists of the world will cooperate with me in this matter, I will endeavor to report to the International Commission at the Gratz meeting in 1910 a list of the kind proposed. It does not seem advisable to make this official list too large at first, but if the plan is found to be feasible, additional names could be placed on the list year after year, and eventually we would have a catalogue of all of the most common and most important names in zoology.

I invite the zoologists of the world to cooperate with me in this experiment on the following plan: Let any person interested in zoology send to me within the next three months a list of 100 zoological names which he considers the most important, and the most generally used. Let every man who is familiar with nomenclatural usages work out the status, under the international code, of 10 of the 100 names which he submits, giving the